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The Question of Immortality



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Chapter 1 by Brock Thompson

Dear Reader,

I will begin this story with a question.

If a man could live forever, what could he achieve?

Chapter 2 by Harlander



The Immortal was born in 957 B.C.

The Immortal's birthplace was al-Mansuriya, in the Fatamid Caliphate. It was a fine city, laced with waterways, pools and gardens. Today, of course, it remains as nothing more than a few broken walls and those stone fountains which had been taken to decorate other cities.

He, we know, was a curious and clever man. A lucky one, too, to be born in this place at this time. The Caliph ordered the construction of a great university in Cairo, and the immortal was among its first students. He studied astronomy, logic and philosophy, and wandered the land learning of medicine, architecture and mechanics.

He became famous, not only as a well learned scholar, but for the strange fact that wherever he went, he seemed as young as the See more of Story Wars Azar university.

"There goes a blinder of it

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signs to ward off the evil

eye as he passed.

Chapter 3 by Harlander



The Immortal's trail through the rest of the tenth century is hard to follow. Written records of the time are fragmentary at best, but documents recently discovered by the modern al-Azhar's project to digitise its ancient texts describe an unnamed man being declared *riddah* by a leading imam at the university - a state punishable by death. Most of the document is concerned with the legalistic religious argument that this pronouncement sparked, but a single line near the end of the account suggests he vanished without a trace while the imams were still arguing whether or not his punishment should be left to Allah.

There's little hard evidence for what he got up to after leaving the Caliphate. Of course, those who know of his existence are quick to place him at every important historical event, the more lurid the better, but this is just excited over-enthusiasm.

We know he travelled widely. Reliable sources place him at Paris, Stockholm, Basra, London, Hong Kong, Minsk and Tokyo, to name but a few of the cities he's been known to live in. He also comes up frequently in association with rationalist movements, most notably the doomed Mutazilites.

All told, though, we have only fragments of his story, and the big questions still remain unanswered.

How did he come to be immortal?

What has he been doing across the centuries... and what is his goal?

Chapter 4 by obligator



After years of searching I have come across one story supposedly passed down verbally. Before I tell you the myth, I wish to make one thing abundantly clear; there is no reference that any of this happened despite the threads of truth. This should be considered pure fiction until facts are unearthed, lest I have the same fate as the writers of the apocrypha for putting this to paper

After creating Adam, the resistor See more of Story Wars
reached out to his spirit and I
and began to discuss his c I
In time a division was

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made, the resistor and all that saw the authority of Adam as an insult. Along with the only begotten and all those pleased with Adam's role.

The resister, jealous of all the splendor was given to Adam approached God and asked for a test of obedience similar to the way the spirit creatures are obedient. And thus one ordinary fruit tree was selected.

Eventually it became time to create a companion, Eve. The resistor, ever on keen look out to expand his ranks, approached but did not discuss his real grievance. Instead, he implied harshness on behalf of her creator. Pleased with his new recruit, he suggested she offer the fruit to her mate before producing offspring. though skeptical of her success, was now overjoyed with his total conquest in the material realm.

When it was time for all of the angels to take their stand on the issue of mankind, one remained undecided. He neither contributed to the number of Nephilim, nor was able to be reasoned with by God. So he became a chronicler of man under the rule of the great dragon until such a time as he could render judgment for himself.

After asking questions of the teller of the tale 2 facts are clarified: It should not be implied that God's day of judgment is being held up, but rather the impracticality of indecision as plenty of glory and suffering have been seen to make a decision. Also that all reasoning creatures will have had a chance to explain themselves to one that understands the entire scope of the argument.

After considering this story for some time I am left with some deeply troubling thoughts:

1. What is he searching for? What could possibility be left to witness?
2. How is it that thoughts of greed, jealousy, hatred and envy are able to overpower love, compassion, power and wisdom?
3. If a spirit begs for forgiveness after creating so much suffering and death, can justice be satisfied while such creature still lives?
4. If a spirit witnesses so much and yet does not act, when do they become just as guilty as the perpetrators?

Created by Hainan



A voice scoffed in the quiet room. See more of Story Wars Hypothesis: Wendell? How positively charming!

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Wendell smiled beatifically. "It still amuses me, Charles, how you can whole-heartedly accept the truth of an immortal man wandering the world, but you still won't believe in the truth of the Creator."

Charles chuckled. "The difference is *evidence*, dear boy. The difference between the Immortal and this god of yours -" (a long-standing joke that started off as a snide little dig and became an affectionate ritual) "- is that the Immortal is supported by incontrovertible historical and physical evidence, whereas the evidence for a sentient first mover is a Rorschach test the size of the known universe."

The two of them had discussed the matter endlessly for as long as they'd worked together on the puzzle that was the Immortal's life and plans. They'd started as bitter rivals, but, over the years, became firm friends. Neither of them were ever going to shift their position, but the intellectual duels were invigorating.

What they were about to discover, though, would shake both of their beliefs in ways neither of them could have predicted.

Write a draft for chapter 6 of 8 (1 draft)

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